honorary workers and are paid monthly honorarium for their voluntary effort. Accordingly, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to regularise their services.

[English]

Bridges on N.H. No. 5

3724. SHRIMATI M. PARVATI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether five major bridges of National Highway No. 5 of M.V. section on the rivers Manneru, Musi, Paleru. Mudigonda Gundlakamma in Andhra Pradesh, which were constructed during British rule, were marked as weak bridges;

(b) whether proposals have been made and funds provided for their reconstruction;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether time-bound programme has been drawn up for the reconstruction of the said bridges and the work entrusted to private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The work of reconstruction of five major bridges on National Highway No. 5 over rivers Manneru, Musi, Paleru, Mudigonda. Gundlakamma in Andhra Pradesh was included in the 8th Five Year Plan. However, due to paucity of funds, the reconstruction work could not be taken up. It is proposed to take up these works under Build, Operate and transfer basis. As the same is at tender stage, it is too early to indicate any time schedule therefor.

[Translation]

Non-availability of Herbs

3725. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is non-availability of herbs due to rapid deforestation;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for the availability of herbs; and

(c) if no, steps are being taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. There are reports that availability of herbs has been drastically affected by rapid deforestation.

(b) Government Organisations like Councils of Scientific & Industrial Research, Indian Councils of Agricultural Research, Botanical Survey of India etc. are engaged in research/studies on development measures for growth of plants and herbs of medicinal value.

Besides it, there are schemes implemented by various Government Departments for Conservation Development and Cultivation of plants and herbs of medicinal value.

(c) The Scheme presently under implementation are of modest in size compared to the size of the problem. For adequate availability of medicinal plants a much larger programme of plantation is called for and this would require substantial financial resources which are not currently available to the Department. The requirement of funds for this purpose has already been projected to the Planning Commission for 9th Plan.

Scheme for Flood Control and Soil Erosion

3726. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments and particularly the Government of Gujarat have sent any scheme in connection with flood control and soil erosion to the Central Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Two schemes viz. Tapi Embankment Scheme in Tapi basin costing Rs. 33.91 crore and Saurashtra Coastal Development Scheme costing Rs. 100.24 crore submitted by Government of Gujarat have been techno-economically approved by the Centre. Government of Gujarat has to obtain clearance from Environment and Forest angle before the schemes could be accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission.

A scheme on Coastal Development of Kutch district at an estimated cost of Rs. 53.36 crore submitted by Government of Gujarat during the last one year is under techno-economic appraisal. The State Government is yet to comply with certain observations.

[English]

Anglo-Indian Schools

3727. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: